

# Peggy Welch

Indiana State Representative, District 60

## A Sampling of Enacted Legislation

### Children

- Applies child exploitation and pornography laws to images on the Internet; HB1010
- Allows the court to order the payment of child support arrearage, enforceable by contempt of court; HB 1077
- Allows the establishment of the Amber Alert System to coordinate efforts to find missing children; SB 20
- Requires a sex offender to register his address with the county sheriff. Sheriffs must maintain a registry of sex offenders on the Web; SB 367
- Provides that soliciting an individual whom the person believes to be less than 14 years old to engage in a sexual act constitutes child solicitation; SB 482

### Consumers

- Sets new provisions establishing obligations between landlords and tenants; HB 1013
- Grants the attorney general authority to investigate and take action against retailers who gouge fuel prices during an emergency; HB 1015

### Crime

- Requires the judge in murder cases to allow relatives to make victim impact statements in open court sentencing; HB 1012
- Increases the penalties for leaving the scene of a boating accident which results in injury or death; HB 1124
- Restricts the issuance of protective orders to cases of domestic or family violence; HB 1232
- Provides that a person under the age of 18 cannot receive the death sentence; SB 426

## 2002 Session Wrap-Up

New laws address education, health, consumers and kids

Dear Friend,

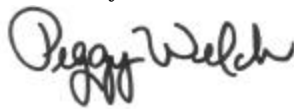
I hope that you recently received from me a report dedicated to the successful bipartisan budget and tax restructuring bill passed during the special session. The purpose of the special session was to find solutions to our budget shortfall and to create an environment for economic growth and job creation. I am pleased that we reached that goal. Though the issues of budget and tax restructuring consumed much of our attention during the regular session (January through March), we did pass some significant bills that affect most every area of our lives. This update focuses on a sampling of those bills.

During the regular session, we sent 200 bills to the Governor for his signature, with 186 being enacted into law. We passed laws that help protect our children in daycare and protect them from predators on the Internet. Your legislature passed laws that will help prevent fuel gouging and strengthens the rules for landlords and tenants. We saw the need to be proactive in the fight against terrorism, thus protecting Hoosiers. And we enacted legislation that allows a person to have more control of their in-home care.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, much of my time was spent on the tax and budget bill. Nonetheless, I had the privilege of working closely on several bills that were enacted into law: the Amber Alert Program, which alerts the community if a child has been abducted; a meningitis immunization bill; a bill that will help bring more nurses into the state; an organ donation bill; and a bill that will help protect students and staff from "sick" school buildings.

The 2003 session will begin in January, and I am already working on legislation based on ideas and concerns that citizens of District 60 have shared with me. If you have ideas for a bill or have questions about what we did in the regular or special sessions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



### Health

- Establishes a fund to pay for the testing of bone and organ marrow donors; HB 1049
- Allows individuals in need of in-home services to choose their own caregivers; HB 1252
- Adopts the interstate nurse licensure compact to allow a licensed RN or LPN to practice in Indiana; HB 1297

### Public Safety

- Establishes a Counter-Terrorism and Safety Council to serve as the coordinating state agency for emergency management response to terrorist acts; HB 1001
- Requires a district to pay medical and hospital care expenses for a police officer or firefighter injured in duty; HB 1081
- Permits an EMT to administer epinephrine to a person experiencing an allergic reaction; SB 213

# Welch named to chronic disease prevention team

Even though a legislative session ends, our work and study as legislators continues. This summer and fall I am working with a 10-person team that will develop an Indiana comprehensive strategy for the prevention and management of chronic diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, asthma, and stroke.

Indiana was chosen as one of nine states to participate in the National Governors Association's Policy Academy on Chronic Disease Prevention and Management. In the months ahead, the Indiana team will be working with the other eight states in sharing ideas and developing plans that can reduce both the social and financial cost of chronic diseases.

The cost of treating chronic diseases amounts to almost 75 percent of total Medicaid expenses across the country. It is expected that Medicaid costs will continue to rise as state incomes decline. Thus, it is critical that effective strategies be developed for the prevention and management of chronic diseases.

I am excited about the potential we have in Indiana to help lessen the personal suffering and financial burdens of chronic disease, plus improve the quality of life for Hoosiers. If you have ideas on how we can improve in the areas of prevention and management of chronic diseases, please let me hear from you.



The 2002 study committees for future legislation have not yet been announced. Nonetheless, I am moving forward in meeting with individuals and groups about legislation for 2003. Please feel free to contact me throughout the coming months with ideas or questions about issues affecting our state.



**Representative  
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## Welch celebrates with the Endwright Center



Pictured are Rep. Welch and Frances Endwright at the recent ceremony honoring "Mr. Ellettsville," Maurice Endwright, and celebrating the transfer of the Endwright Center property title from the Town of Ellettsville to the Area 10 Agency on Aging.

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